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**Subject:** EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - Monday, May 23, 2016

## **EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines**

### **Monday, May 23, 2016**

### **\*\*\* DAILY HOT LIST \*\*\***

#### **Pennsylvania's environmental protection secretary resigns**

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW** (Saturday) The state's short-serving but long-besieged environmental protection secretary resigned Friday amid questions about an email he sent from a private email account to advocacy groups, though issues had existed for some time, said lawmakers and a source close to the governor's administration. John Quigley was in Pittsburgh on Thursday, meeting with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and he used his Twitter account to disseminate DEP-related news as late as Friday morning. The Tribune-Review could not reach Quigley for comment about his resignation. Gov. Tom Wolf tapped him for the job last year. Wolf's office did not divulge why Quigley quit, although the administration did say that it was looking into an email Quigley had sent this spring. No details were provided. The Philadelphia Inquirer cited a source who said Quigley's email to environmental groups bemoaned the Legislature's failure to approve changes to state oil and gas drilling regulations he championed and delays in changing clean-air regulations. Rep. John Maher, R-Upper St. Clair, recently battled publicly with Quigley over environmental rules DEP has been pushing for drilling and wells. "The unfortunate level of discourse with Quigley is illustrated by his determined refusal to correct known typographical errors in pending regulations," said Maher, chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "The upbeat message would be Quigley's departure creates an opportunity for the administration to improve its efforts for environmental protection." Democratic Sen. John Yudichak on Thursday said that "serious concerns" had been raised about Quigley's conduct. On Friday, the Luzerne/Carbon lawmaker applauded Wolf for quickly accepting Quigley's resignation. "Secretary Quigley demonstrated poor judgment and a clear inability to work with legislators to advance the governor's environmental agenda," Yudichak said in a statement. Quigley led the DEP as acting secretary since January 2015. He received Senate confirmation in June.

#### **Recent Vienna water tests well over new C8 limit**

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL** (Friday) Vienna residents were advised not to drink or cook with their municipal water on Thursday because five water samples, taken last year from throughout the water system, showed levels of C8 higher than a new advisory level for the chemical released earlier that day. Vienna's water comes from eight wells in three separate well groupings, and all three groupings were found to have elevated levels of C8 - a chemical linked to cancer and numerous other health problems - when tests were done in May and December of 2015. In 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set a provisional health advisory for C8 of 400 parts per trillion in drinking water. Recent test results all fall below that limit. But on Thursday, after years of delays, the EPA set a long-term advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion. Environmental groups and local lawyers have been pleading with EPA to take action for more than 15 years, and many say that the new level is still far too lenient in the amount of C8 it says is permissible in drinking water. They're also critical that the limit is advisory only, and does not carry the force of law. "EPA must set a legally enforceable standard that will protect the millions of Americans drinking C8 contaminated water," said Paul Brooks, a Vienna doctor and leader of the group Keep Your Promises DuPont. "This guideline falls short of that goal."

#### **Vienna residents, business owners grapple with new C8 guidelines**

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL** (Saturday) VIENNA — Standing in her Vienna restaurant during the lunch-time rush Friday, Cindi Emrick had mostly questions and frustration about an advisory not to drink or cook with the city's tap water. Nothing about the water had changed overnight in the city near where DuPont Co. had, for years, been making the chemical C8, so why, she wondered, was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency changing the allowable limits so drastically now. "Why are we panicking? It's the same water we drank yesterday," she said. Emrick co-owns Mr. Hot Diggity Dog, which has been open on Grand Central Avenue for 16 years and in the city for a total of 20. On Thursday, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health put in place an advisory for the city's water users not to drink or cook with the water. The advisory followed new EPA guidelines that say drinking water with 70 parts of C8 per trillion or less is "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." The chemical, which has contaminated the water in Wood County communities for years, has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The restaurant brought in bottled water for customers and alternative water for cooking, she said. Signs posted on the door and its drink machine warned patrons that it uses city water in the soda machine. For the most part, customers didn't seem to care at all about the EPA's new warning, she said. "Every customer that's come in has got soda," Emrick said. "They're not even affected by the announcement." The city brought in borrowed tankers full of water from the city of Parkersburg, which also was affected by the new guidelines. Water there tested above the allowable limits, too, but officials there were able to switch to wells that tested at lower levels of the chemical...

### Commentary: Was ousted Pa. Secretary John Quigley too green for Pa. politics? Or just 'impertinent'?

**HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS** (Saturday) In the current environment, being Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection is probably one of the hardest jobs in state government. There are energy policy wars going on that pit one of the major drivers of the state and national economies - copious natural gas deposits - squarely against unyielding scientific issues that those same economic drivers contribute to. Then, there is a divided government in Pennsylvania that often finds the Democratic governor and the Republican-controlled legislature starting from opposing corners on many of those issues. In that context, some said Friday, former Secretary of Environmental Protection John Quigley - who resigned his \$152,657-a-year cabinet post after a brief meeting with Gov. Tom Wolf Friday - probably never had a chance. He was, one observer concluded, probably too green in an environment where people live in shades of gray. To some, this showed most starkly in the consideration this winter and spring of new regulations to govern the resurgent oil and gas drilling industries - a powerful force in state politics. Legislators, mostly Republican but some Democrats too, sought to soften the new rules as they wended through the rule-making process, and at times they thought they had Quigley's buy-in. But when decision time came for DEP's Environmental Quality Board, shocked stakeholders said they saw Quigley lead the charge to vote down every single amendment. He acted, said Sen. John Yudichak, a Luzerne County Democrat from anthracite coal country, like a political advocate instead of the leader of a state agency charged with finding balance in energy policy. "Quigley was simply off the reservation, and the governor recognized that," Yudichak said Friday night as word of Quigley's resignation spread. "He wasn't able to build relationships in the General Assembly... and I applaud the governor for making a quick decision to move forward."

### Air Quality Collaborative gathers steam in Pittsburgh region

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW** (Friday) Intent on protecting students from excessive exposure to exhaust fumes, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a new air-quality law in 2009: Diesel-powered school buses may not idle for more than five minutes in a 60-minute period. But by late 2014, a cluster of Western Pennsylvania nonprofits maintained that as many as one-third of diesel buses serving Pittsburgh schools were breaking the rule, and practically no schools had posted required idling signage. The loosely organized coalition launched an anti-idling campaign, pressuring school officials, lawmakers and transportation vendors to take the law seriously. Now, the nonprofit cluster says, compliance is up and signs at nearly every Pittsburgh Public Schools campus remind drivers to limit idling. It's a small victory that exemplifies the unified power two dozen nonprofits want to harness by forming a new regional group, the Air Quality Collaborative. "We all of a sudden have been multiplied and have more support at the table," said Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, a member of the collaborative and executive director of Women for a Healthy Environment, an East Liberty-based nonprofit with one part-time and two full-time employees. The Air Quality Collaborative, spawned

by The Heinz Endowments, has grown strong enough to morph into its own formal body. The Heinz Endowments, which pitched in \$50,000 toward the collaborative's formation, began advertising this month for a director to run it. "It will continue to allow the nonprofit sector to engage on these issues in a very sharp and organized way," said Andrew McElwaine, the Downtown-based foundation's vice president of sustainability and the environment. "It allows for collaboration across a wide range of nonprofits, research, advocacy, outreach and it essentially allows the organizations to be greater than the sum of the parts."

## **DEP drops plans to pursue \$8.9 million civil penalty against gas driller**

**HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS** WILLIAMSPORT — A Texas natural gas driller no longer is facing a nearly \$9 million civil penalty from the state Department of Environmental Protection for alleged violations at a well in eastern Lycoming County. The DEP on May 6 notified Range Resources-Appalachia it no longer would pursue an \$8.957 million fine for alleged violations related to the gas well on the property of Lewis Harman outside Hughesville. Range then withdrew the appeal before the Environmental Hearing Board and that board Monday formally dismissed it. Attempts Saturday to learn why DEP decided not to pursue the civil penalty were unsuccessful. Range has no comment, spokesman Matt Pitzarella said, but he added the company continues "to work cooperatively with DEP to investigate and evaluate this matter." It was one of two appeals Range had pending before the board stemming from DEP's allegations about the Harman well. Still pending is one that accuses Range of violating the Clean Streams Law and the Oil and Gas Act. The DEP said stray gas migration from the Harman well is the cause of high levels of methane in five water wells in Green Valley below. It wants Range to submit and implement a remedial plan for the well.

## **Dredging the Delaware has scientists worried about the impact of climate change**

**STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA** The Delaware River is getting deeper thanks to a joint federal and state effort to dredge the shipping channel to make way for larger boats. It's the culmination of a multi-million dollar project stalled for years by doubts over economic benefits and fears of environmental damage. In the long fought battle over dredging the Delaware, environmentalists lost. They were worried about a laundry list of potential impacts to the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, oysters, horseshoe crabs, as well as what to do with all the potentially hazardous muck dredged from the river bottom. But there is one impact nobody at the time was talking about — climate change. Six years after the first shovels started scooping up the riverbed, reporter Katie Colaneri takes a look at how the deepening project could impact the health of the river, which provides drinking water for 16 million people.

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# **PENNSYLVANIA**

## **PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

**Pa. DEP chief resigns after email controversy** (Saturday) HARRISBURG - John Quigley, a longtime environmental advocate and fixture in Pennsylvania politics, resigned Friday as the state's top environmental officer, days after a private email he wrote stoked the latest controversy over his tenure. The Wolf administration would not say why Quigley abruptly left his post as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Gov. Wolf named the DEP's policy director, Patrick McDonnell, as acting secretary. "I thank John Quigley for his service to the commonwealth, and I look forward to working with Patrick McDonnell," the governor said in a statement. Quigley was not available for comment. He is the third member of Wolf's cabinet to leave in less than a year. His departure came as Wolf was examining whether an email the DEP secretary sent last month to advocacy groups compromised his objectivity, according to a source close to the administration. The source described that message as "the straw that broke the camel's back," and said Quigley's strained relationships with the legislature and even with administration officials had become a political liability.

**Feds Release Health Advisories for Toxins Often Found in NJ Water** (Friday) EPA warnings, which are not enforceable, set new, lower levels for PFOA and PFOS in water supplies. The federal Environmental Protection Agency yesterday issued new health advisories for two chemicals used in a wide variety of consumer goods that have been detected with

increasing frequency in drinking water supplies in New Jersey. The effect of the advisories is to replace previous warnings associated with the health risks of exposure to PFOA (perfluorooctanic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate). The new advisory establishes levels that are considerably lower than those set by a short-term health advisory that has been in place since 2009 and used as a trigger by communities to take action when the chemicals are found in drinking water. In New Jersey, where high levels of PFOA have been found in at least 12 public water systems in testing dating to 2007, environmentalists hailed the federal agency's action and urged the state to take quick action to adopt enforceable standards for the two contaminants. "Many more people are now drinking water that is not considered to be safe, exposing them to the risk of harmful health effects and the potential to develop serious diseases," said Tracy Carluccio of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Marking one's turf in the underground tangle of circuits and pipelines Maurice Scott opened the tailgate of his pickup, revealing enough quick-drying Krylon industrial spray paint to palpitate the heart of a graffiti artist. "Anything within 25 feet, we have to mark," said Scott, an underground-utility locator for USIC, a Peco Energy Co. contractor. Scott consulted a map of the underground circuitry at 22nd and Walnut Streets in Center City, where a four-story condominium building is being constructed. He confirmed the location of the wires using an electronic tool that wailed when it detected underground electricity. Scott marked the pavement with red paint indicating Peco's buried electrical lines. After workers for other utilities tagged the site - yellow paint for gas and steam, blue for potable water, orange for phone and cable - the sidewalks and streets around the site were transformed into a kaleidoscope of colorful hieroglyphs that mapped out the hidden network of pipes and cables below. "It's crowded down there," said Dave Haverstick, Peco's manager of damage prevention. "In big cities like this, it's very challenging." The state's Underground Utility Line Protection Act, which requires utilities to mark their underground lines to prevent infrastructure damage, is set to expire at the end of this year. Legislation to renew the Pennsylvania One Call System is hung up in a Harrisburg labyrinth that makes the underground utility matrix look simple by comparison.

## **PHILLY VOICE**

Pennsylvania provides free bottled water to residents near NAWC, WGNAS Pennsylvania is distributing free bottled water to some residents of Horsham, Warrington and Warminster after the U.S. Environment Protection Agency announced new advisory levels for two industrial chemicals found in their drinking water. Governor Tom Wolf and Representative Todd Stephens announced on Thursday that some residents in the area of the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Horsham and the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster had dangerous levels of the industrial chemicals perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The EPA on Thursday announced new drinking water health advisory levels — .07 parts per billion (ppb) — for PFOA and PFOS, a much lower threshold than the agency's 2009 levels of .4 ppb for PFOA and .2 ppb for PFOS. Where both contaminants are present, the EPA suggests a maximum combined level of .07 ppb. Unlike the 2009 levels, the new standards assume lifetime exposure to the chemicals and are based on more current research. The chemicals were used in firefighting foam at both former Navy bases. "We are taking precautionary action to ensure all residents in the area are receiving water until we receive further guidance from the EPA on this matter," Wolf said. "I appreciate the governor and DEP working with us to provide safe drinking water to local residents," Stephens said. "Until the EPA ensures the water coming from our faucets is safe for everyone to drink, the state must continue to protect its residents." The free bottled water was made available Thursday as soon as the EPA announced the new advisory levels.

## **PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

State DEP secretary is third member of Wolf's cabinet to resign this year

PennDOT's bike map useful but not everything cyclists need Interactive map encourages cross-state road trips but Pittsburgh riders would like more details on local routes.

Letter: Stop hysteria about Zika, and proactively kill mosquitoes

## **PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW**

Pennsylvania's environmental protection secretary resigns (Saturday) The state's short-serving but long-besieged environmental protection secretary resigned Friday amid questions about an email he sent from a

private email account to advocacy groups, though issues had existed for some time, said lawmakers and a source close to the governor's administration. John Quigley was in Pittsburgh on Thursday, meeting with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and he used his Twitter account to disseminate DEP-related news as late as Friday morning. The Tribune-Review could not reach Quigley for comment about his resignation. Gov. Tom Wolf tapped him for the job last year. Wolf's office did not divulge why Quigley quit, although the administration did say that it was looking into an email Quigley had sent this spring. No details were provided. The Philadelphia Inquirer cited a source who said Quigley's email to environmental groups bemoaned the Legislature's failure to approve changes to state oil and gas drilling regulations he championed and delays in changing clean-air regulations. Rep. John Maher, R-Upper St. Clair, recently battled publicly with Quigley over environmental rules DEP has been pushing for drilling and wells. "The unfortunate level of discourse with Quigley is illustrated by his determined refusal to correct known typographical errors in pending regulations," said Maher, chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "The upbeat message would be Quigley's departure creates an opportunity for the administration to improve its efforts for environmental protection." Democratic Sen. John Yudichak on Thursday said that "serious concerns" had been raised about Quigley's conduct. On Friday, the Luzerne/Carbon lawmaker applauded Wolf for quickly accepting Quigley's resignation. "Secretary Quigley demonstrated poor judgment and a clear inability to work with legislators to advance the governor's environmental agenda," Yudichak said in a statement. Quigley led the DEP as acting secretary since January 2015. He received Senate confirmation in June.

Commentary: Quigley's email & Hamlet's plan (Saturday) John Quigley had to go. And late Friday, he "resigned." With a gubernatorial shove. Nearly three months after the secretary of the state Department of Environmental Protection appeared to dis the import of the shale gas industry in Pennsylvania in an investor conference call, he found himself in hot fracking fluid last week for, supposedly, dissing his boss, Gov. Tom Wolf, in a private email to environmental groups. Capitolwire first reported Thursday that Mr. Quigley's communique criticized the groups and the governor "for not doing enough to support ... (new) oil and gas regulations, as well as new clean air regulations." Citing sources it did not name, Capitolwire said the email "was equally harsh toward Wolf for pausing regulations in an attempt to address some of the issues raised by legislators." The Wolf administration confirmed for Capitolwire that it was "looking into this matter." Quigley's office did not respond to this columnist's request for comment Friday. Quigley, a big "greenie" from way back, raised eyebrows in that March 4 investor call, ebulliently shilling for a severance tax while downplaying the importance of the shale gas and oil industry to the Pennsylvania economy. As I opined at the time, it's almost as if the benefits of the shale industry were being discounted to dissuade investment. And that's certainly not a proper role for a state Cabinet member. Neither is going behind your boss's back — the governor's back — in what had all the appearances of lobbying lobbyists to influence public policy, if not attempting to squeeze that governor for at least having the veneer of being an honest broker. ...

Report: DEP drops \$9 million penalty against Range Resources in Lycoming case WILLIAMSPORT — A Texas natural gas driller no longer is facing a nearly \$9 million civil penalty from the state Department of Environmental Protection for alleged violations at a well in eastern Lycoming County. The DEP on May 6 notified Range Resources-Appalachia it no longer would pursue an \$8.957 million fine for alleged violations related to the gas well on the property of Lewis Harman outside Hughesville. Range then withdrew the appeal before the Environmental Hearing Board and that board Monday formally dismissed it. Attempts Saturday to learn why DEP decided not to pursue the civil penalty were unsuccessful. Range has no comment, spokesman Matt Pitzarella said, but he added the company continues "to work cooperatively with DEP to investigate and evaluate this matter." It was one of two appeals Range had pending before the board stemming from DEP's allegations about the Harman well. Still pending is one that accuses Range of violating the Clean Streams Law and the Oil and Gas Act. The DEP said stray gas migration from the Harman well is the cause of high levels of methane in five water wells in Green Valley below. It wants Range to submit and implement a remedial plan for the well. According to a status report filed April 22, the parties continue to discuss potential frameworks to resolve the appeal. Range, headquartered in Fort Worth, claims DEP has failed to identify any violations associated with the Harman well. Range and Harman claim naturally forming methane existed before the well was drilled in 2011. Range has given the DEP a complete isotopic analysis that it claims proves what is in the well water did not come from the gas well. Range has provided purification systems to five residents in Green Valley, explaining it acts first and investigates later when a situation with water develops.

Air Quality Collaborative gathers steam in Pittsburgh region (Friday) Intent on protecting students from excessive exposure to exhaust fumes, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a new air-quality law in 2009: Diesel-powered school buses may not idle for more than five minutes in a 60-minute period. But by late 2014, a cluster of Western Pennsylvania nonprofits maintained that as many as one-third of diesel buses serving Pittsburgh schools were breaking the rule, and practically no schools had posted required idling signage. The loosely organized coalition launched an anti-idling campaign, pressuring school officials, lawmakers and transportation vendors to take the law seriously. Now, the nonprofit cluster says, compliance is up and signs at nearly every Pittsburgh Public Schools campus remind drivers to limit idling. It's a small victory that exemplifies the unified power two dozen nonprofits want to harness by forming a new regional group, the Air Quality Collaborative. "We all of a sudden have been multiplied and have more support at the table," said Michelle Naccarati-Chapkin, a member of the collaborative and executive director of Women for a Healthy Environment, an East Liberty-based nonprofit with one part-time and two full-time employees. The Air Quality Collaborative, spawned by The Heinz Endowments, has grown strong enough to morph into its own formal body. The Heinz Endowments, which pitched in \$50,000 toward the collaborative's formation, began advertising this month for a director to run it. "It will continue to allow the nonprofit sector to engage on these issues in a very sharp and organized way," said Andrew McElwaine, the Downtown-based foundation's vice president of sustainability and the environment. "It allows for collaboration across a wide range of nonprofits, research, advocacy, outreach and it essentially allows the organizations to be greater than the sum of the parts."

Test Reveal No Contamination From Pipeline Explosion (Saturday) Third-party tests of soil, surface and groundwater revealed no contamination from the massive natural gas pipeline explosion that rocked Salem on April 29, a Spectra Energy spokesman said Friday. Officials from the company, which operates the Texas Eastern pipeline that runs from the Gulf of Mexico to eastern Pennsylvania, previously said tests it contracted ruled out contamination to soil and surface water. The latest test results included samples taken from two water wells in the area. Salem residents who rely on wells for drinking water in the rural community were concerned about the possible impact on groundwater from the rupture of the 30-inch pipeline that sent a fireball soaring into the air, scorching about 40 acres of farmland, destroying a home, damaging several others and leaving a man with extensive burns. Spectra spokesman Creighton Welch said results of the lab tests, which the company did not make public, "indicate there are no contaminants from this incident." Welch did not identify the company that did the testing. The results of lab tests the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is conducting on air samples taken around the blast site are pending. DEP spokesman John Poister on Friday said the agency, which collected air samples for 24 hours after the blast, has yet to receive those results. A general inspection of the blast site conducted by DEP's Bureau of Water Supply and Wastewater Management on May 2 yielded a report noting that soil appeared to be burned off to the clay substrata and that "the water in the affected area has no evident contaminant issues." State Route 819 in Salem, which typically carries about 3,200 vehicles a day, remains closed from Route 22 to Evergreen Road. A PennDOT spokesman said the agency has not begun repair work on the section that was damaged in the blast.

## **STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA**

Dredging the Delaware has scientists worried about the impact of climate change The Delaware River is getting deeper thanks to a joint federal and state effort to dredge the shipping channel to make way for larger boats. It's the culmination of a multi-million dollar project stalled for years by doubts over economic benefits and fears of environmental damage. In the long fought battle over dredging the Delaware, environmentalists lost. They were worried about a laundry list of potential impacts to the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, oysters, horseshoe crabs, as well as what to do with all the potentially hazardous muck dredged from the river bottom. But there is one impact nobody at the time was talking about — climate change. Six years after the first shovels started scooping up the riverbed, reporter Katie Colaneri takes a look at how the deepening project could impact the health of the river, which provides drinking water for 16 million people.

Delaware River ports fight for market share as dredging project nears completion (Saturday) Bigger ships and more cargo flowing through the ports of Philadelphia and South Jersey should mean more jobs and greater economic activity when the Delaware River deepening project is completed next year, but the benefits may not be a slam-dunk for the region as expected. Fierce competition from other East Coast ports for an expected trade bonanza resulting from the widening of the Panama Canal means that the \$392 million project to dredge another five feet of mud and rock from the bottom of the river near Philadelphia does not automatically mean that more ships will call at the local ports, experts

said. What's more, environmentalists warn that the dredging project will harm the health of the river and will likely bring saltwater closer to Philadelphia's drinking water intakes. Even to reap the expected benefits of the long-delayed project – now six years into the dredging project and 24 years since its first funding was appropriated by Congress – ports on both sides of the river will have to play to their strengths.

Wolf's environmental chief is out, following email controversy (Friday) State Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley resigned Friday afternoon, following several news reports about a controversial email he sent last month to environmental groups. Governor Tom Wolf issued a statement thanking Quigley for his service, without offering any details about the nature of his departure. "The email is the straw that broke the camel's back," says a source close to the Wolf administration. "[Quigley] has no relationships with the legislature and has angered a lot of people within the administration. It's a long line of things that have become a problem." Capitolwire first reported Thursday Quigley sent an email chastising the environmental groups for not doing enough to support DEP's revised oil and gas regulations, as well as new federal clean air regulations. The drilling rules have faced stiff opposition from the industry and the Republican-led legislature. DEP Director of Policy Patrick McDonnell will serve as Acting Secretary for the department. Quigley did not immediately respond to requests to comment Friday afternoon.

### **WHYY NEWSWORKS PHILADELPHIA**

8 water wells taken offline outside of Philadelphia over contamination concerns (Friday) In an effort to protect the water supply, several suburban Philadelphia towns will stop using several wells that may be unsafe. Kyle Bagenstose of the Bucks County Courier Times has been following the story and joined Newsworks Tonight's Dave Heller to give an update. The chemicals in question, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), can be found in firefighting foams that were used at military bases in the area. Health advisories established in 2009 set hazardous levels of the possible carcinogens at 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA in drinking water, and 0.2 ppb for PFOS. But the new numbers lower that line to .007ppb for each. Research on connecting the chemicals to health problems such as cancer is still young. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is currently looking at data on cancer in the area over the past thirty years to determine there is a link, and Bagenstose says their findings could be released as soon as the summer.

### **DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER**

DEP distributes free bottled water in Horsham (Friday) A steady stream of Horsham, Warrington and Warminster residents came to the Horsham Community Center Friday to get cases of free bottled water. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection distributed the water to those who have had their water contaminated with perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which are suspected to have come from firefighting foam used at the former Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Horsham, the Horsham Air Guard Station and the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster...

### **HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS**

Was ousted Pa. Secretary John Quigley too green for Pa. politics? Or just 'impertinent'? (Saturday) In the current environment, being Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection is probably one of the hardest jobs in state government. There are energy policy wars going on that pit one of the major drivers of the state and national economies - copious natural gas deposits - squarely against unyielding scientific issues that those same economic drivers contribute to. Then, there is a divided government in Pennsylvania that often finds the Democratic governor and the Republican-controlled legislature starting from opposing corners on many of those issues. In that context, some said Friday, former Secretary of Environmental Protection John Quigley - who resigned his \$152,657-a-year cabinet post after a brief meeting with Gov. Tom Wolf Friday - probably never had a chance. He was, one observer concluded, probably too green in an environment where people live in shades of gray. To some, this showed most starkly in the consideration this winter and spring of new regulations to govern the resurgent oil and gas drilling industries - a powerful force in state politics. Legislators, mostly Republican but some Democrats too, sought to soften the new rules as they wended through the rule-making process, and at times they thought they had Quigley's buy-in. But when decision time came for DEP's Environmental Quality Board, shocked stakeholders said they saw Quigley lead the charge to vote down every single amendment. He acted, said Sen. John Yudichak, a Luzerne County Democrat from anthracite coal country, like a political advocate instead of the leader of a state agency charged with finding balance in energy policy. "Quigley was simply off the reservation, and the governor recognized that," Yudichak said Friday night as



word of Quigley's resignation spread. "He wasn't able to build relationships in the General Assembly... and I applaud the governor for making a quick decision to move forward." "There was a lot of frustration that he would say one thing (in meetings with lawmakers) and then ultimately do what he wanted to do," said Drew Crompton, chief of staff to Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson County.

Commentary: Political Winners & Losers: Rendell's gaffe, Pa's email-gate and Tom Ridge speaks (Sunday) Good Sunday Morning, Everyone. From sexist remarks by a former governor to the swift exit of a senior Wolf administration official, it's been quite a week in Pennsylvania politics. Let the score-keeping begin...John Quigley: Gov. Tom Wolf's Environmental Protection Secretary was shown the exits Friday after it was revealed that Quigley shot off an email to environmental groups venting over how several Democratic senators had broken with the Wolf administration over a greenhouse gas emissions bill. The email was quickly followed by advertisements attacking Sens. John Yudichak of Luzerne County and John Blake of Lackawanna County. The groups who ran the ads have since denied being directed by Quigley to run them. Quigley, a former Hazleton mayor, resigned on Friday after a brief meeting with Wolf.

DEP drops plans to pursue \$8.9 million civil penalty against gas driller WILLIAMSPORT — A Texas natural gas driller no longer is facing a nearly \$9 million civil penalty from the state Department of Environmental Protection for alleged violations at a well in eastern Lycoming County. The DEP on May 6 notified Range Resources-Appalachia it no longer would pursue an \$8.957 million fine for alleged violations related to the gas well on the property of Lewis Harman outside Hughesville. Range then withdrew the appeal before the Environmental Hearing Board and that board Monday formally dismissed it. Attempts Saturday to learn why DEP decided not to pursue the civil penalty were unsuccessful. Range has no comment, spokesman Matt Pitzarella said, but he added the company continues "to work cooperatively with DEP to investigate and evaluate this matter." It was one of two appeals Range had pending before the board stemming from DEP's allegations about the Harman well. Still pending is one that accuses Range of violating the Clean Streams Law and the Oil and Gas Act. The DEP said stray gas migration from the Harman well is the cause of high levels of methane in five water wells in Green Valley below. It wants Range to submit and implement a remedial plan for the well.

Where are the worst places to live in Pennsylvania to commute?

## **ABC 27 HARRISBURG**

Susquehanna Watershed Education Program HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) – The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is busy this spring guiding local students through a series of hands-on programs to emphasize the importance of clean water. Kids from 14 different counties will get a chance to actually get out on the water and learn first-hand the critical connection to the natural world. "It is very important to get the students outside on the water. Many of the students, like today's East Pennsboro group. They live right next to the river but have never experienced the water themselves. They get to enjoy the river, see it's beauty, and hopefully they will want to protect it", said Tom Parke. "I think it is important to study about the watershed so you know where your water and drinking water comes from," said East Pennsboro freshman Jacob Doll. "When we are in the water we like to test the water's turbidity, the clarity of the water. We are looking at the nutrient levels as well," explained Parke. "I think the more you know the watershed where you are living they more you know about where you are from and how it affects you," said Doll. These programs have been serving kids from 14 different counties for over 15 years. Getting an opportunity to learn how to paddle a canoe is an extra bonus to the program. "The program is a canoe based program. The students learn how to canoe at the beginning of the day. And the old town canoes are great vessels for exploration on the water. The students are able to get some exercise, work as a team, and explore together," said Parke.

Hopefully, these programs will motivate students to make critical decisions about their natural world.

## **HAZELTON STANDARD SPEAKER**

Ex-mayor Quigley leaves post following email probe (Saturday) John Quigley, Gov. Tom Wolf's environmental protection secretary, has resigned Friday afternoon. Wolf confirmed Quigley's resignation during an interview with The Associated Press. Although not disclosing the reasons behind his resignation, the governor lauded his accomplishments during his tenure as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. During the interview, Wolf is quoted as saying



"[Quigley] did a fine job." The announcement came directly on the heels of an investigation into Quigley's conduct, surrounding in inquiry by Wolf's office into an email the official sent to environmental advocacy groups from a private email address, according to The Associated Press. The resignation announcement came just hours after the governor's office disclosed its the investigation. Quigley's actions have come under fire from some local politicians, particularly state Sen. John Yudichak, D-14, Plymouth Township, who told The Associated Press that he has "serious concerns" about Quigley's actions. According to The Associated Press, Yudichak "became the target of radio and newspaper ads by environmental groups in recent weeks. The ads criticized him for supporting legislation extending the Legislature's power to seek changes in any Wolf administration plan to comply with federal requirements to curtail greenhouse gas emissions from power plants." Yudichak's office released a statement early Friday evening in reference to the resignation. According to the release, Yudichak felt Wolf "made a quick and appropriate decision in accepting the resignation of DEP Secretary John Quigley." It went on to add that "Secretary Quigley demonstrated poor judgment and a clear inability to work with legislators to advance the governor's environmental agenda." Yudichak explained further to the Standard-Speaker on Friday evening via telephone. "I just want to underscore that the governor made a smart and quick decision, recognizing that Secretary Quigley at this point had eroded his credibility with the general assembly, leading to an inability to advance any meaningful legislature," he said.

Rails-to-Trails receives grant for drainage Greater Hazleton Rails-to-Trails is getting a grant to fix drainage problems at the trailhead. The \$8,330 Luzerne County Marcellus Shale legacy grant will be used to install larger drainage pipes at the beginning of the trail, which has been the scene of flooding during severe rainstorms because of runoff from neighboring properties. Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, which oversees development of the trail, said Tuesday morning he has received notification that the partnership's grant application has been funded. Installation of the pipes, which may be done this year, is a prelude to a paver project the Rails-to-Trails committee wants to do, Skulsky said. Over the last several years, people have donated money to dedicate memorial trees planted at the trail as well as benches. "The committee wants to do a paver project at the start of the trail as you leave the parking lot," Skulsky said. "We have a lot of people who come for trees and benches we don't have. So we figured we'd go with a paver project to raise money and beautify the entrance to the trail. For large donors who want to give \$1,000 or more, we'd have the larger pavers. "We didn't want to start that project until we had the new drainage pipes installed, so they (the pavers) wouldn't be wiped out in the next flood." Whether the pipe project is done this year hinges on another grant, Skulsky said.

## **LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS**

Commentary: State needs farmers, private sector to solve runoff problem (Sunday) I grew up in Lancaster County, and generations of my family have called the land under Kreider Farms Dairy our home since 1736. I'm fortunate to be part of a community that cares so much about our agricultural heritage and whose members work to be good environmental stewards. Every farmer I know wants to tackle the real environmental threat of livestock waste runoff. It's a serious menace to Pennsylvania's waterways and to the Chesapeake Bay. That's why it's disappointing to hear the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection wants to transform local conservation districts to have them "police" the farmers who are working on this problem. Not only are we working on this problem now, but we've had the technology to do so for nearly five years. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania has ignored our solution. In July 2011 at Kreider Farms, we unveiled a groundbreaking new technology that protected local streams and the Chesapeake Bay from livestock waste. It also saved taxpayer money and had the potential to create a source of renewable energy and reusable water on farms. Standing before state officials and the media, we demonstrated an advanced micro-aerobic digestion system by Bion Environmental Technologies that would have dramatically reduced runoff by treating animal waste on our farm — before the waste ever made it to local waterways. Bion's Phase II plans at Kreider also would have created energy and water sources for the farm.

## **LANCASTER FARMING**

Water Monitors Seen as Key to Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Every minute, the Susquehanna River pours 19 million gallons of water into the Chesapeake Bay, which is more than half the water that goes into that body of water from its six-state, plus District of Columbia, watershed. Water from 32,000 Pennsylvania farms drains into the bay. Nearly 5,500 of those farms are in Lancaster County, and of that county's 1,400 miles of streams, nearly half are on the state Department of Environmental Protection's impaired stream list. For decades, the pollutant levels in the bay have been a major concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in more recent years has been tightening the screws on farmers and

municipalities in the Susquehanna watershed, but especially on farmers, whose runoff contributes 80 percent of the pollutants that flow from the Susquehanna into the Chesapeake Bay. At the May 12 Ag Issues Forum sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, three of Pennsylvania's most environmentally knowledgeable officials — Russell Redding, John Quigley and Christopher Thompson — spoke to about 80 people. Redding is the state secretary of agriculture, Quigley is the secretary of environmental protection, and Thompson is the district manager of the Lancaster County Conservation District. They brought plenty of numbers to the breakfast meeting, but there was one kind of number they could not provide. They do not know how much phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment are flowing from any given farmer's fields into Cocalico Creek before it flows into the Conestoga River, which then flows into the Susquehanna. They have big numbers, broad numbers, but not the small specific numbers that make up the big numbers, because the small numbers are simply not available. The EPA's actions are guided by the big numbers contained in its computer model of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. That model relies heavily on government data, which is based on installed conservation practices, such as stream buffers, that have been wholly or partially paid for with taxpayers' dollars.

University Report Finds *Chesapeake Bay* Health Improved in 2015 (Friday) ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The overall health of the Chesapeake Bay improved in 2015, according to scientists at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The largest estuary in the nation scored a C in 2015, one of the three highest scores since 1986. Only 1992 and 2002 scored as high or higher, both years of major sustained droughts. "We'd expect to see improvements after a drought year because nutrients aren't being washed into the bay, fueling algae blooms and poor water quality," said Bill Dennison, vice president for science applications at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "However, in 2015 stream flow was below normal, but nowhere near the drought conditions in 1992 and 2002," Dennison said. "Thus, the high score for 2015 indicates that we're making progress reducing what's coming off the land." The overall score for the Chesapeake Bay Health Index for 2015 was 53 percent, compared with 50 percent in 2014 and 45 percent in 2013. There were strong improvements in many regions throughout the bay, such as the Choptank River, Upper Eastern Shore, Lower Western Shore, and Rappahannock River. There were no regions with lower scores in 2015 compared with 2014. Improvements could be related to a number of factors, including several years of moderate weather, sewage treatment upgrades, use of winter cover crops by farmers and reductions in atmospheric nitrogen deposition. "We know why the bay became degraded and what we need to do to restore it. This report card shows what's possible when we take action," said Donald Boesch, president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "The positive results give us confidence that even greater improvements will be realized if pollutant loads are further reduced as committed." Most of the indicators in the health index improved in 2015. Chlorophyll a — a measure of phytoplankton concentration, which can lead to reduced water clarity and reduced dissolved oxygen levels — had improving scores throughout the bay.

Editorial: A Better Bay (Friday) Nothing is perfect. My sons, for instance, make a big mess when they eat. And farmers make messes growing that food. Even the wise owl sitting on a limb in the middle of the wilderness makes a mess at the base of the tree. Such is life. After hundreds of years of food production and consumption in the Chesapeake watershed, all those messes have added up to a very murky bay. Now we're in the midst of a multistate effort to reverse that, which is good as long as we remember that we'll never be able to return it to the state it was in at the founding of Jamestown in 1607. There are simply too many people living upstream. They all have to eat, and that means farmers have to grow fruits, vegetables and grains to feed them, along with other crops to feed the animals that provide the milk, eggs and meat for their tables. Still, that doesn't mean we should throw up our hands and say a cleanup is impossible because it would require too many changes from the ways our fathers and grandfathers farmed. We can make the Chesapeake Bay better. In fact, we've already got a good start in that direction. It won't happen overnight, but with everyone — not just farmers — contributing to the effort one step at a time, the bay will get better. That's the heart of the message that Pennsylvania officials have been taking on the road lately as they prepare farmers for inspections starting in July as part of the state's "reboot" of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. The way they plan to go about that may sound a little harsh. They're using the word "enforcement." Every farm must have a formal set of plans to manage manure, sedimentation and erosion. And those plans must be implemented. Federal money is being redirected from the educational efforts that helped farmers develop those plans to inspections to make sure they're in compliance...

## **WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER**

Those reliant on oil and gas industry wait for a rebound When two professionals in the oil and gas industry spoke April

19 to 100 people at South Franklin Township fire hall about the future of the Marcellus and Utica shales, the crowd was particularly attentive. The audience included many landowners, some bankers and attorneys, and representatives from the area's philanthropic community, waiting with anticipation to learn when the industry – in a downturn since early 2015 – might return. Dave Spigelmyer, president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, and Nathan Snyder, a certified financial analyst with Snow Capital Opportunity Fund, who follows the oil and gas industry, told the group they believe the industry is poised for a comeback in the region in the third quarter of 2017. Mostly missing from the audience that night were the people who have staked a portion of their businesses on the fortunes of oil and gas production in the Marcellus and Utica shales – those who make up the supply chain for an industry that extends across Pennsylvania and into West Virginia and eastern Ohio. Spigelmyer acknowledged the supply chain has suffered with the downturn. He noted MSC, which represents drillers and their suppliers, has seen its membership shrink from around 300 to 220 since drillers began announcing what he said has amounted to a \$12 billion cutback in capital investment since early 2015. Rig counts in the region have plummeted from 111 to just a handful in the past 18 months, as producers wait for natural gas prices – depressed to just over \$1 per thousand cubic feet in the Appalachian Basin – to reach a point where drilling again makes economic sense. Spigelmyer and Snyder believe drilling could be profitable at between \$3.50 and \$4 per mcf. But the Marcellus now has a capacity of more than 16.3 billion cubic feet per day, a tall order for a region that doesn't yet have the complementary capacity to move a supply glut of that magnitude.

Hickory Student Wins Watershed Art Contest Margo Bonal, a homeschool student from Hickory, placed first in western Pennsylvania in Pennsylvania American Water's "Protect Our Watersheds" art contest. The company received several hundred entries from fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders throughout the state. Margo's artwork depicted a picnic along a stream, with the reminder to "look ahead to your watershed" by properly disposing of litter. She will receive a gift card for her winning entry. The contest requires that students' artwork be accompanied by a short description of how watershed protection affects them personally. After reviewing the entries, a panel of judges selected three top drawings from both eastern and western Pennsylvania.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)**

Wolf's environmental protection secretary resigns HARRISBURG, Pa. >> Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's environmental protection secretary resigned Friday after Wolf's office began looking into an email the official sent to environmental advocacy groups from a private email address. Wolf confirmed John Quigley's resignation in a brief interview with The Associated Press, but he did not explain the reasons behind it. The governor said Quigley did a "fine job" and that an acting secretary, Patrick McDonnell, had been named to the Department of Environmental Protection. The resignation came hours after the governor's office disclosed its inquiry into the email. Quigley did not return a telephone message Friday. Sen. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne, said the email inquiry and Wolf's removal of Quigley was the culmination of growing complaints about Quigley from state lawmakers, both Republican and Democrat, in the GOP-controlled Legislature. Those complaints had targeted Quigley's unwillingness to discuss issues, accept feedback and strike compromises, including on a slate of new oil and gas industry regulations, said Yudichak, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Quigley, he said, had lost the ability to advance the governor's agenda and had harbored a personal political agenda outside of the Wolf administration. "There was a pattern of behavior ... that clearly indicated to the governor that John Quigley wasn't the best person to be the secretary of the DEP," Yudichak said. "The governor has made that decision, I applaud that decision, he made the right decision and he made it quickly."

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## **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

### **WASHINGTON POST**

This is how cities of the future will get their energy (Friday) In the global effort to fight climate change, cities have some of the greatest potential— and the greatest imperative — to make a difference. With an increasing global migration into the world's urban areas, which are expected to support at least two-thirds of the total human population by 2050, experts have argued that cities have no choice but to transition toward low-carbon systems if they're going to remain sustainable. Energy will need to be a primary focus of that effort. From the expansion of renewable energy sources to the adoption of cutting-edge energy efficiency and storage technologies, cities have the opportunity to drastically reduce their carbon footprints. This is the focus of a new paper, published Thursday in the journal Science, that

discusses the ways cities can integrate renewable energy, as well as energy-saving technologies, into the urban landscape. This can be a challenge, given that cities — with their closely packed buildings and dense populations — don't always lend themselves to traditional renewable techniques. It's not exactly practical to fit an acres-long solar panel array in the middle of Shanghai, for instance, or to place a 200-foot-tall wind turbine in downtown New York City. But with a little creativity, researchers are developing new ideas and technologies specifically designed for city life. In the new paper, authors Daniel Kammen and Deborah Sunter of the University of California Berkeley have evaluated some of the most promising of these. Here are a few of the innovative solutions that may help cities lead the ongoing fight against climate change and the march toward a low-carbon society.

The pace of environmental damage is 'intensifying' across the globe, U.N. agency says In a sweeping synthesis of global data, the United Nations Environment Programme has intensively catalogued environmental assaults across the six different major regions of the globe. And it finds that overall, damage to the planet is happening more rapidly than before, through slights ranging from air pollution, to the proliferation of human and toxic waste, to water scarcity and climate change.

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## DELAWARE

### **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL**

Prime Hook work near complete Prime Hook work near complete. The six breaches formed during Hurricane Sandy are filled and Fowler Beach is wide and flat, work on marsh continues. The unexpected benefit from the recent restoration of Fowler Beach has been a new spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs. Dozens of the animals dotted the wide, flat beach Saturday afternoon just after low tide. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Delaware, brought his colleague Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI, to see both the restoration project and the shorebird migration along Delaware Bay. Along the way, they visited the South Wilmington Wetland restoration, Port Mahon and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. A central theme of the visit was to show how Delaware is adapting to climate change and sea level rise. "We're doing great stuff in Delaware" to adapt to climate change," Coons said. He said he invited Whitehouse to Delaware to see how the lowest lying state in the nation was preparing for a future with rising sea levels and more unstable weather. Whitehouse, a leading senate voice of concern about climate change said the "really big punch we're going to get is through the ocean." In his home state of Rhode Island, he said, some fisheries are already suffering because the water temperature in Narragansett Bay has risen 4-degrees. Lower level species that form the base of the food chain are also in trouble. "You lose that and the whole foundation comes down," he said.

### **DELAWARE PUBLIC MEDIA (NPR)**

Master plan for Wilmington port expansion in development stage A draft strategic master plan for port expansion in Wilmington was presented last week. The report prepared by AECOM lays out three different potential sites for port expansion: with total project costs ranging from \$300 million to over \$1 billion. The plan offers multiple options at the state-owned Port of Wilmington but many additional resources would be needed to make them happen. One would involve work to make the Port more container friendly. The port's Executive Director Gene Bailey says they currently have limited container capacity, with only two weekly banana suppliers shipping in containers: DOLE and Chiquita. "So what we have to do is look and see: take a look at the forecasting that's been presented by AECOM, what the growth is, where the growth is coming from and then you sit down and you take a look at those suggestions for consideration and you evaluate how that best fits with the forecast for growth and then you start to make a determination on the direction you'd like to go in," Bailey said. Other options developing operations at Riveredge Industrial Park south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge and Edge Moor, on the former Evraz Steel site in Claymont. New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon has been advocating for the Riveredge location. "It's probably the most valuable because of a lot of things but one: it doesn't have any bridges to go under. These large ships come right off the ocean and they can turn around there, and go back," Gordon said. But Gordon also says he thinks it is possible to invest in all three locations. Bailey says he and his team are reviewing the proposal, and will hopefully present recommendations to the Port's board of directors in the next couple of weeks. However, he said it could take longer given the complexity of the plan. Bailey says realistically it will take 5, 10 or even 20 years to play out. "When you talk anywhere in the range of \$300 million to \$1.1

billion you don't want to go in there number 1 blindfolded and number 2 you don't want to go in there without fully looking at every opportunity that's been presented to us," Bailey said. Proposals face numerous hurdles including the Coastal Zone Act, limiting industrial development on the Delaware River.

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## WEST VIRGINIA

### **CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL**

Recent Vienna water tests well over new C8 limit (Friday) Vienna residents were advised not to drink or cook with their municipal water on Thursday because five water samples, taken last year from throughout the water system, showed levels of C8 higher than a new advisory level for the chemical released earlier that day. Vienna's water comes from eight wells in three separate well groupings, and all three groupings were found to have elevated levels of C8 - a chemical linked to cancer and numerous other health problems - when tests were done in May and December of 2015. In 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set a provisional health advisory for C8 of 400 parts per trillion in drinking water. Recent test results all fall below that limit. But on Thursday, after years of delays, the EPA set a long-term advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion. Environmental groups and local lawyers have been pleading with EPA to take action for more than 15 years, and many say that the new level is still far too lenient in the amount of C8 it says is permissible in drinking water. They're also critical that the limit is advisory only, and does not carry the force of law. "EPA must set a legally enforceable standard that will protect the millions of Americans drinking C8 contaminated water," said Paul Brooks, a Vienna doctor and leader of the group Keep Your Promises DuPont. "This guideline falls short of that goal."

Vienna residents, business owners grapple with new C8 guidelines VIENNA — Standing in her Vienna restaurant during the lunch-time rush Friday, Cindi Emrick had mostly questions and frustration about an advisory not to drink or cook with the city's tap water. Nothing about the water had changed overnight in the city near where DuPont Co. had, for years, been making the chemical C8, so why, she wondered, was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency changing the allowable limits so drastically now. "Why are we panicking? It's the same water we drank yesterday," she said. Emrick co-owns Mr. Hot Diggity Dog, which has been open on Grand Central Avenue for 16 years and in the city for a total of 20. On Thursday, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health put in place an advisory for the city's water users not to drink or cook with the water. The advisory followed new EPA guidelines that say drinking water with 70 parts of C8 per trillion or less is "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." The chemical, which has contaminated the water in Wood County communities for years, has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The restaurant brought in bottled water for customers and alternative water for cooking, she said. Signs posted on the door and its drink machine warned patrons that it uses city water in the soda machine. For the most part, customers didn't seem to care at all about the EPA's new warning, she said. "Every customer that's come in has got soda," Emrick said. "They're not even affected by the announcement." The city brought in borrowed tankers full of water from the city of Parkersburg, which also was affected by the new guidelines. Water there tested above the allowable limits, too, but officials there were able to switch to wells that tested at lower levels of the chemical...

### **CLARKSBURG EXPONENT TELEGRAM**

Electric transmission line construction will finish this summer; will serve residents and Marcellus Shale industry (Sunday) CLARKSBURG — Construction soon will be completed on an 18-mile transmission line in Harrison and Doddridge counties that will support the electric demands of the area's shale gas industry. The \$92 million, 138-kilovolt line project is expected to be energized and in service by mid-summer, said Todd Meyers, Mon Power spokesman. The power line will enhance service reliability for almost 13,000 Mon Power customers around the Clarksburg and Salem areas, he said. Mon Power serves about 385,000 customers across 34 counties in West Virginia. Over the next month, cranes will hoist about 80 steel structures onto recently completed concrete foundations along the 18-mile corridor linking a

transmission substation in Clarksburg with one near Sherwood. Crews also will attach wire conductor to the poles throughout May and June, Meyers said. The new power line will link the substation on Armory Road in Clarksburg and a substation near Sherwood, which FirstEnergy completed in 2014 at a cost of about \$56 million. The Sherwood substation was primarily constructed to support the growing electrical needs of a gas facility nearby, while also benefitting more than 6,000 Mon Power customers along the U.S. 50 corridor in Doddridge, Harrison and Ritchie counties with enhanced service reliability, said FirstEnergy Corp. in a press release. FirstEnergy owns Mon Power. "In the last five years, West Virginia natural gas production has increased with the development of the Marcellus Shale, due to better natural gas fracking technology," Meyers said. "We have to build an infrastructure to support it. The natural gas industry is energy intensive. It needs electricity to run gas compressor stations, natural gas processing facility operations, and to compress the gas that moves along in the pipeline."

## **WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

A Homestead Act for Appalachia Appalachia, especially its coal mining region, is experiencing a revived bit of attention as shuttered mines, a rise in income inequality and longstanding poverty received flashes of concern from both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. As a native son of the region with many kin and friends unemployed by the decline in coal production, it might be logical to expect I should be optimistic that things are really going to change for the better in the mountains as a result of this latest regional revival. My experience as a journalist covering the War on Poverty and New Deal legacy institutions like the Tennessee Valley Authority, however, tempers my optimism. After all, Clinton's standard Democratic formulas of job retraining and federal aid that launched the 50-year old War on Poverty and the Appalachian Regional Commission have turned out to leave the region today in the same relative position to the nation that it was a half century ago: at the bottom of the poorest. Trump's vague proposals to make miners "proud" again and to somehow bring the continuous mining machines and Cat bulldozers back to life make me think he understands the business of coal mining no better than he knew the business of gambling in Atlantic City that bankrupted his casinos. There is another way. nyone who has spent time in the mountains and hollows from Middlesboro, Ky., to Beckley, W.V., understands that most of the land is owned either by coal and timber companies or the federal government with its national forests and parks. Coal companies alone own 1.3 million acres in the Cumberlands of Kentucky and even more in the Alleghenies of West Virginia. The federal government is actually the largest single landowner in Appalachia...

## **WHEELING INTELLIGENCER**

Wheeling, Ohio Valley Communities Continue to See Population Decline WHEELING - Of the 55 students who graduated from The Linsly School in 1990, Wheeling Mayor-elect Glenn Elliott believes he is one of only four living in the Friendly City today, as he said most left for college and never returned. Therefore, new U.S. Census Bureau estimates indicating that Wheeling's population dropped by 838 residents from 2010 to 2015 did not come as much of a surprise to Elliott. An estimated 27,648 people inhabited Wheeling as of July 1, down from 28,486 in 2010. Wheeling is not alone, however, as municipalities from Steubenville to Sistersville, and from New Martinsville to St. Clairsville, continue losing population. Years of economic trouble related to the decline of the steel, aluminum, glass, coal and other industries have resulted in younger people leaving the Upper Ohio Valley to seek opportunity.

Coping With Fewer People in Wheeling Unless something about the region's economy changes, Wheeling's new municipal government will have to cope with one carryover challenge: dwindling population.

## **WEIRTON DAILY TIMES**

Word awaited on coalition EPA grant (Friday) WEIRTON - Representatives of two area development organizations are hopeful they soon will know whether they will be named the recipient of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency coalition grant focused on the cleanup of area brownfields. Pat Ford, executive director of the Business Development Corp. of the Northern Panhandle, and Evan Scurti, executive director of the Jefferson County Port Authority, expect to receive word in the next few days of whether the grant of approximately \$600,000 will be awarded for the region. If awarded, the EPA would allow the grant to cross the federal region border delineated by the Ohio River, permitting the pot of funding to be used on projects in both West Virginia and Ohio. It's a regional approach Ford and Scurti have been

working to promote for the betterment of the entire Ohio Valley. "We need to work together to get these prospects here," Ford said. The funding, if awarded, will be used as part of continuing efforts to assess and clean up brownfield sites in Jefferson County in Ohio, and in Hancock and Brooke counties in West Virginia. Brownfields are sites which contain contaminants from commercial or industrial activity, ranging from a gas station to a manufacturing facility. Cleaning up these sites, and attracting businesses to them, will be a benefit to residents on both sides of the river, Scurti explained, as jobs will be available to residents of all three counties no matter which community the company might locate. "Most of our citizens realize we have to work as a region," Scurti said, noting there will still be competition, when necessary, but cooperation will be a major focus. If awarded, the grant would be used by both the BDC and the port authority, and administered through the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, itself a federally-recognized agency which covers the three counties. It also will require the establishment of a task force, to be co-chaired by Ford and Scurti, which will determine which properties to tackle. The grant did not require any local funding match.

### **PARKERSBURG NEWS-SENTINEL**

Chemours agrees to pay for Vienna water filters (subscription required) VIENNA - Water woes will be a thing of the past for Vienna residents after an announcement from Chemours.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)**

Chemours to Pay for Carbon Filter Installation in Vienna A company has agreed to pay for the installation of carbon filters in Vienna's water treatment plant. Vienna Mayor Randy Rapp says the installation paid for by Wilmington, Delaware-based Chemours Co. will begin immediately. Rapp told the Parkersburg News and Sentinel the filters are temporary while construction begins on a permanent facility. West Virginia officials issued a "Do Not Drink" advisory last week for Vienna water after the Environmental Protection Agency announced a new limit for the chemical C8 present in Wood County's drinking water. C8 levels in the city's water source are slightly above the new limit. C8 was used until 2013 in the manufacture of Teflon at the DuPont Washington Works plant along the Ohio River. Chemours is a spinoff of DuPont's performance chemicals division.

W.Va. Objects to Alpha Natural Sale to Hedge Fund (Friday) West Virginia's environmental authority has filed an objection to the proposed \$500 million sale of Alpha Natural Resources' assets to a hedge fund, arguing that the deal could leave the state holding hundreds of millions in reclamation liabilities. The Register-Herald reports that the Department of Environmental Protection filed the objection this week over concerns that a bankruptcy judge's approval of the proposed sale would tilt the process in favor of the hedge fund and institutional investors by having the coal company's major assets be sold off to Alpha's senior lenders. The state says West Virginia would be forced to accept costly concessions or risk liquidation. The DEP says the Bristol, Virginia-based company had an obligation of \$237 million, as of last month. It filed for bankruptcy protection in August.

Birding Festival Set for Next Month at Canaan Valley Resort (Friday) Birders and nature lovers can participate in nature walks, presentations and activities during the annual Canaan Valley Birding Festival next month in Davis. The event is June 2 through 5 at Canaan Valley Resort. Nature walk leaders will provide instruction on birding by ear as well as eye. Several keynote speakers will appear. Kevin Dodg of Garrett College in Maryland will present "Night Sounds of the Appalachians," West Virginia University student Kyle Aldinger will talk about forest management and conservation efforts for private landowners and Pipestem Resort State Park retired naturalist Jim Phillips will talk about eagles and their life cycle in southern West Virginia. A news release from Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau said species likely to be seen include bobolinks, scarlet tanagers and Baltimore and orchard orioles.

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## MARYLAND

### **BALTIMORE SUN**

After 10 months of nurturing, volunteer oyster gardeners cut 'youngsters' loose (Friday) With her 8-year-old son, Eddy,



and several hundred adolescent oysters in tow, Suzanne Goll pulled into the gravel parking lot at Londontowne Community Pier in Edgewater and watched a trio of workers unshackle zip ties on her three oyster cages. They dumped the occupants into 5-gallon buckets and hauled them to a skiff that would transport the mollusks on the final leg of a 10-month journey. Each fall, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation provides scores of oyster spat to volunteers like Goll, who are deputized to grow the oysters through the winter along their local shoreline. When the weather turns warmer, foundation staff members collect the creatures — which have grown considerably — and escort them to sanctuary reefs in the bay and its tributaries. Last year, oyster gardeners helped raise more than 230,000 oysters for reintroduction into the estuary, often back into the waters where they grew. Goll's oysters had a short commute to their new home, just a few hundred yards offshore in the middle of Glebe Bay on the South River. "This is nice because you can see the reef right from where you're dropping them off," said Patrick Beall, an oyster-restoration specialist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

## **SALISBURY DAILY TIMES**

Editorial: Vision Plan could help save Smith Island County residents' homegrown vision and plan will serve the community well into the future. If Smith Island had the clout of New Orleans, Miami or Virginia Beach, maybe we wouldn't be at the stage where Smith Island is endangered. Those coastal cities are also battling a future in which rising waters mean plans need to be made. They have infrastructure, resources and the eye of the nation. But on Smith Island in Somerset County, there was no plan. It didn't even have the eye of its county. In a remarkable piece of governmental oversight, the future of Smith Island is barely even mentioned in Somerset's comprehensive plan, the county's guiding document. That has changed. Say what you want about government plans. Say what you want about a rural community's healthy contempt for a government's role in the lives of its residents. Say what you want about surveys and community organizers. Smith Island, as locals like to say, has gotten its act together. It is a victory for the communities there and for those of us who want to see a grand and unique way of life preserved. There is now a plan for the future. We'd like to see the plan adopted at once and included as part of Somerset County's comprehensive plan. And we'd like to see all of the county work toward meeting the island's very important goals:

## **CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL**

PA environment secretary resigns amid email flap Pennsylvania Environment Secretary John Quigley abruptly resigned late Friday in the wake of a controversy over private emails sent to environmental activists said to be critical of the state legislature. The emails reportedly sparked the office of Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, to announce an inquiry into the emails earlier in the day. Quigley's resignation came a few hours later. Wolf named Patrick McDonnell, most recently the Department of Environmental Protection director of policy, as acting secretary of the DEP. "I thank John Quigley for his service to the commonwealth, and I look forward to working with Patrick McDonnell," Wolf said in a brief statement. Quigley, who had also served as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources during the administration of former Gov. Ed Rendell, was popular with environmental groups. But he had difficulty steering legislation through the Republican-controlled General Assembly, where he reportedly had clashed with some Democrats as well.

Blog: Forget "the right people": Everyone deserves to see special places Thoughts on responsible nature tourism after flap over publicizing Virginia's awesome Savage Neck Dunes. Not long ago, the *Bay Journal* posted an article I wrote about Savage Neck Dunes, a wonderful preserve on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The article, which was written for Bay Journeys, has been shared online. I also wrote a blog post about it last year, after the visit, and shared some cool photos I took of downed trees. (For the Journeys article, we showcased Dave Harp's beautiful photos, which show the diversity of plant life and the beautiful dunes.) On a Facebook forum where the article was shared, a woman complained that, by writing about this special place, we were spoiling it. Already, she said, it had become overrun with people and trash - people who were not respecting its specialness. I disagreed, but another reader jumped in and agreed with the woman. Not wanting to spend my weekend on Facebook arguing with strangers, I added this response: "One of our goals at the Chesapeake Bay Journal is to help people connect more with nature, so they will care more about preserving it. Everyone always worries that their special places will be overrun. A much bigger problem seems to be lack of visitation. Especially now, with the economy not being great, people are looking for places they can go that are low cost or free. We provide a service by telling people about them, whether it's a mansion you can rent at Belle Isle State Park or a free ferry service with an eye-level view of an osprey."

Wye Island is a great place to explore by land, water Wye Island in Queen Anne's County, MD, is one of my favorite places in the world. In the mid-1970s, this beautiful place was nearly lost to the public. Plans to turn the island into a housing development failed to come to fruition because the state purchased the land with Program Open Space funds and turned the island into a Natural Resources Management Area. This 2,800-acre island provides access to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail along Maryland's Eastern Shore. It's an incredible place to explore by land and by water. Wye Island provides habitat for the Delmarva fox squirrel, which until recently was on the endangered species list. A diversity of birds also visit the island, including warblers, bluebirds and vireos, which are seen in the spring and early summer months. Flocks of waterfowl attract hunters in the fall and winter. It has more than 12 miles of hiking trails, with opportunities for hikers of any level. Ferry Point Trail at the east end of the island is like something out of a movie. Most of this idyllic trail is lined with old Osage orange trees. Though not native to the East Coast, these trees have grown over top of the trail to create a stunningly beautiful vegetative tunnel. When planted close together, Osage orange trees can create natural fences. They also produce strange, tropical-looking — but inedible — fruit the size of softballs, which litter the trail. At the end of the trail, you'll find a sandy beach with a rope swing, picnic table and rustic bathroom...

Tolerance took root in St. Mary's City Historic St. Mary's City, an archeological and heritage center at the site of Maryland's first capital, features an extensive collection of American Indian artifacts, true-to-the-time replicas and re-enactors in period costume. But the original city nearly became lost, a footnote along a state highway with perhaps nothing more than a plaque marking the site where colonists established the first Maryland settlement that prized religious freedom and tolerance.

Commentary: It's hard to see the forest when counting trees for harvest (By Tom Horton) If you walked alone and untutored through the tall pines, century-old oaks, big beeches and sweetgums of the forest, near where the Eastern Shore's Wicomico River carves a bend known as Pirates Wharf, I'm pretty sure the need to begin cutting it down as the best way to protect its health wouldn't leap to mind. Indeed, if you were accompanied by Joan Maloof, emeritus biology professor at Salisbury University and a nationally regarded expert on old-growth forests, you'd come away convinced the woods at Pirates Wharf is well on its way to becoming something truly special — if we let it follow its natural destiny across the next century or two...

## **CARROLL COUNTY TIMES**

SHA to remove excess pavement along Carroll roads In an effort to reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland State Highway Administration will remove leftover sections of excess asphalt along roadways around the state, including several in Carroll County. "Years ago, if we were to widen a road or realign it, there could be some slivers of leftover pavement; the size of a driveway or something like that. We're removing that and putting grass down," said SHA spokesman Charlie Gischlar. "It just kind of reduces the amount of water from run off getting out onto the roads and going down into a stream and, you know how the cycle works, all the way down to the bay." SHA has already begun removing sections in Howard County and will next move to Carroll and Frederick counties, according to Gischlar. In Carroll, patches of asphalt will be removed and replaced with grass in multiple locations, including Manchester Road in Westminster, Old Liberty Road in Winfield and Francis Scott Key Highway near Kump Station Road. The work is not expected to affect traffic flows, according to Gischlar. "Throughout the next couple of weeks and up through the fall, you will be seeing [crews] out there," he said. "We won't have any lane blockages, or if we do it will be very brief to bring in material or something like that." A total of around 6 acres of asphalt will be removed from sites around the state as part of the \$2.9 million project, which is part of the SHA Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program.

## **HAGERSTOWN HERALD MAIL**

Air Force exploring whether it contaminated Berkeley County water (Saturday) MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The U.S. Air Force said Friday that is investigating whether industrial chemicals might have migrated from the 167th Airlift Wing base near Martinsburg to contaminate groundwater for the city's public water system. The chemicals — perfluorooctanoic acid, known as PFOA, and perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS — were cited in the city's move Thursday afternoon to shut down the Big Springs water-filtration plant after it was alerted to tighter federal guidelines for human exposure to

the compounds. Both have been linked to cancers, liver damage and birth defects in recent scientific studies, according to the EPA, which issued new lifetime exposure health advisories Thursday for the chemicals. Mayor George Karos assured city residents Friday morning in an emergency Martinsburg City Council meeting that the municipality's water is safe. "The water we've had, and the water that we have furnished to the Berkeley County water district has been safe, and to my knowledge, it is safe today," Karos said. "This is just a precautionary measure that we are taking on behalf of the citizens of Berkeley County," he said. The city's water supply now is fully relying on the Kilmer Springs filtration plant, which was found to be free of the chemicals in most recent testing, city officials said. The EPA said that long-term exposure to either chemical at concentrations above 70 parts per trillion could have adverse health impacts. That's significantly lower than the agency's prior advisory level of 400 parts per trillion.

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## VIRGINIA

### **NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT**

Coastal Journal | Diamondback terrapin rescued from Chesapeake surf in Virginia (Saturday) The tiny diamondback terrapin scrambled across the sand, hit the chilly water, thought better of it and went to hide out for a while in some marsh grasses at Pleasure House Point. The baby turtle, not much bigger than a 50-cent piece, was rescued from the Chesapeake Bay surf near Westminster-Canterbury and brought to Lynnhaven River Now's offices at the Brock Environmental Center at Pleasure House Point. Pearl Schools Coordinator Jody Ullmann took charge of the youngster and released it in the river's calmer waters where it could take cover in the protective grasses. 'Tis the season for baby diamondback turtles, and many are leaving their sandy nests on shore and heading to the water for the first time. Some crawl to the water and do just fine. Others, like this one, may get caught in an outgoing tide and wash out into the bay, not their usual habitat, or get caught by a hungry gull and dropped far from home.

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS**

Duke University takes samples in Fluvanna, Chesterfield for coal-ash test (Friday) RICHMOND — Researchers at Duke University who say they have developed a method to link water contamination to coal ash have taken samples near Dominion Virginia Power facilities in Fluvanna and Chesterfield counties and expect to publish the results in a scientific journal after a peer-review process is complete. "We are not an environmental group," said Avner Vengosh, a professor of geochemistry and water quality at the university's Nicholas School of the Environment. "We're trying to do science, and we're trying to do it as objectively as we can." Vengosh said water was taken from streams and other surface water near the Chesterfield and Bremo power stations last year to determine whether any contaminants from coal ash, which can contain a host of toxic substances such as lead, arsenic, chromium, mercury and other metals, have leached out from the holding ponds where they currently sit. Dominion Virginia Power and Appalachian Power are currently in the process of closing ash ponds, where waste left over from burning coal to generate electricity is mixed with water to keep it from becoming airborne, at six facilities across the state. The process of "dewatering" the ponds, including treating the water to levels specified by permits approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and discharging it into the James River and Quantico Creek, has begun at the Bremo station and at Possum Point in Prince William County. Dominion has also committed to additional treatment at each facility pursuant to separate agreements with the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and the James River Association. However, appeals by the Potomac Riverkeeper Network and the state of Maryland of the water-discharge permits issued for Possum Point are still pending.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **THE EPA BLOG**

When Buildings Compete, We All Win (By Gina McCarthy) On average, Americans spend about 90% of their time indoors. So the buildings where we work, learn, and shop have an important role to play in our wellbeing. At the same time, buildings also contribute to the health of our surrounding environment. In 2015, about 40% of total U.S. energy consumption was consumed in residential and commercial buildings. And commercial buildings are responsible for

nearly 20% of our nation's greenhouse gas emissions. Improving energy efficiency has proven to be one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways for businesses and organizations to save money, create jobs, and improve employee wellbeing. Plus, facility improvement measures can actually improve employee productivity by creating more comfortable spaces for people to work.

GROing Above and Beyond Having recently graduated university, I still have early morning classes, long research paper assignments, and three to five hour finals very fresh in my mind. So fresh in fact that some days I find myself still preparing to walk across campus even though I now live a state away. I have to shake the thought off with an exaggerated shudder. When I think about how I made it through those dark times, one thing leaps to the front of my mind—I had a lot of help. If I tried to count the teachers, friends, and employers that inspired and supported me throughout my four year trek in academia I'd run out of fingers and toes. Sometimes it was just a two minute conversation in the hall, other times it was a very scathing paper critique. To use an African proverb commonly quoted today, "It took a village," a network of people and organizations, to get me emotionally, physically and academically to the finish line. For more than 30 years, EPA has been supporting and encouraging undergraduates in environmental-related fields through the Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowship program. Winners of this fellowship receive up to \$50,000 for their last 2 years of college and the chance to intern at an EPA facility during the summer. Sponsorship and hands-on-research experience can be invaluable to prospective environmental scientists, giving them the tools and the contacts they need to pursue careers in federal government, academia, the private sector, and other non-government organizations.

This Week in EPA Science (Friday) It's National Bike to Work Day! Did you ride your bike to work? Way to go! Now you can sit back, relax, and catch up on the latest in EPA science. And if you didn't bike to work—that's okay, I didn't either. But you can still enjoy the Recap.

## **BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

EPA Awards \$55.2 Million for Brownfields Redevelopment The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will give out \$55.2 million in 218 new grants to clean up brownfields properties in underserved and economically disadvantaged communities, the agency announced May 20. The grants range from \$200,000 to \$820,000 and will go to 131 communities across the U.S., the EPA said. The grants are the most recent in the EPA's brownfields program, which since 1995 has leveraged more than \$20 billion from public and private sources to safely clean up abandoned, contaminated sites and put them back into productive use.

Studies have shown that property values near brownfields rise by 5 to 15 percent once the sites are cleaned up, the EPA said. That in turn leads to increased tax revenues, with local governments seeing increases from \$29 million to \$97 million in tax revenues within the first year after a brownfield cleanup occurs, the EPA said. There are about 450,000 brownfields across the U.S., according to the EPA.

Congress Thinks Environment, Energy Will Influence White House Race House and Senate lawmakers think environmental and energy issues can still play a big role in this fall's presidential election, but outside observers aren't so sure. Democrats believe issues like climate change will help accentuate the differences between Republican businessman Donald Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, while Republicans think arguing that energy development is crucial for economic resurgence and job growth will be an effective strategy for their party.

EPA Taking on Unusual Projects in Fight Against Mosquitoes Carrying Zika While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coordinating the U.S. government's fight against the Zika virus, the EPA is playing a leading role, according to a senior EPA official. Marty Monell, a deputy director at the agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, is the EPA's point person helping to coordinate the federal response to the mosquito-transmitted virus. Monell says the CDC is mainly focused on surveilling and treating the virus while the EPA is working on stopping the insects that carry it.

Energy Rules Loom at Interior Department, Energy Department, NRC, EPA The Interior Department has an array of regulations pending for oil and gas drilling and production in federal onshore and offshore areas, according to the spring regulatory agenda. The Energy Department has many regulatory initiatives in the works as well, especially for energy efficiency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is at work on regulations that include changes to the handling of low-level radioactive waste and a rule aimed at limiting damage from major disasters at nuclear reactors.

## **GREENWIRE**

DRINKING WATER: Teflon chemical's legacy grows as EPA starts crackdown U.S. EPA's clampdown on chemicals used to make Teflon cookware, plastics and fabrics is likely to take a long time. The agency issued a health advisory yesterday aimed at limiting concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water to 70 parts per trillion. That concentration is the equivalent of a drop of water in 3 ½ Olympic-sized swimming pools (*E&ENews PM*, May 19). EPA's move comes as rural communities in New Hampshire, New York and Vermont are wrestling with the spread of one of those chemicals -- PFOA -- in groundwater. There's no legal standard limiting PFOA in drinking water, but the chemical has been linked to health problems -- organ damage, cancer and birth defects -- in laboratory animals. "The fundamental problem is that we haven't characterized how widespread it is," said Erik Olson, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's health program. "As we look for it more, we're finding it more." Groundwater contamination in Hoosick Falls, N.Y.; North Bennington, Vt.; and Merrimack and Amherst, N.H., have been tied to one company, Paris-based Saint-Gobain SA, manufacturer of hard plastics and waterproofing chemicals. Saint-Gobain's products go into the hard white material used to make sports stadium roofs and the fabric treatment for hazardous material suits.

Industry group frowns on EPA vision for advanced biofuels (Friday) U.S. EPA's promise to expand the use of advanced biofuels isn't bringing the agency much applause from the Advanced Biofuels Business Council. The ABBC, which represents biofuel producers such as DuPont and Enerkem, believes the renewable fuel standard program remains stacked against the industry -- no matter what EPA said about the future in this week's proposal on alternative fuel blends, said Brooke Coleman, the group's executive director (*Greenwire*, May 18). "All those outlooks, they're essentially window dressing," Coleman said yesterday. "We don't spend a lot of time on what they anticipate." In a proposed rule on renewable fuel targets for 2017, the agency said it expects to increase levels for advanced biofuels again in 2018 as EPA focuses on cellulosic ethanol and similar alternatives to traditional ethanol. Some analysts and renewable fuel advocates saw that as a reflection of a federal commitment to boosting advanced biofuels.

37% of North American birds face extinction risk Unless immediate action is taken, more than a third of all of North America's birds could become extinct, scientists reported. The researchers, who are part of a tri-nation initiative, said that ocean and tropical birds are at particular risk. The North American Bird Conservation Initiative, formed in 1999, looked at the vulnerability of bird populations in Canada, the United States and Mexico. It found that 37 percent of all 1,154 species require urgent conservation measures. Conservation efforts include removing invasive predators, broadening protected marine areas and reducing plastic products that harm species (*E&E Daily*, May 18). More than half of the bird species linked to oceans and tropical forests already have small and declining populations, their habitats threatened. "The outlook for oceanic birds ... is the bleakest of any North American bird group," according to the report. It cited invasive predators -- like rats and cats -- as well as overfishing, pollution and climate change as the cause

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Most states do bare minimum on fire-foam contamination (Friday) — The military is checking U.S. bases for potential groundwater contamination from a toxic firefighting foam, but most states so far show little inclination to examine civilian sites for the same threat. The foam was likely used around the country at certain airports, refineries and other sites where catastrophic petroleum fires were a risk, but an Associated Press survey of emergency management, environmental and health agencies in all 50 states showed most haven't tracked its use and don't even know whether it was used, where or when. Only five states — Alaska, Minnesota, New Jersey, Vermont and Wisconsin — are tracking the chemicals used in the foam and spilled from other sources through ongoing water monitoring or by looking for potentially contaminated sites. A dozen states are beginning or planning to investigate the chemicals — known as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs — which have been linked to prostate, kidney and testicular cancer, along with other illnesses. The rest of the states, about two-thirds, are waiting for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to make a move. In addition to the Aqueous Film Forming Foam used in disaster preparedness training and in actual fires, PFCs are in many household products and are used to manufacture Teflon. Knowledge about the chemicals' effects has been evolving, and the EPA does not regulate them. The agency in 2009 issued guidance on the level at which they are considered harmful to health, but it was only an advisory — not a legally enforceable limit. The EPA said then that it was assessing the potential risk from short-term exposure through drinking water. It later began studying the health effects

from a lifetime of exposure. Those studies remain in progress, and the agency is also considering whether to establish a firm limit on PFCs in water.

### **NEW YORK TIMES**

Room for Debate: Can Citizens Sue Over Climate Change? Their arguments are often unconventional, but some suits brought by youth advocates are making progress.

### **REUTERS NEWS SERVICE**

More than a third of North American bird species face extinction risk (Friday) More than a third of all North American bird species are at risk of becoming extinct unless significant action is taken, scientists who are part of a tri-nation initiative reported Wednesday, adding that ocean and tropical birds were in particular danger. The report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative — the first of its kind to look at the vulnerability of bird populations in Canada, the United States and Mexico — said 37 percent of all 1,154 species on the continent needed urgent conservation action. The governments of the three nations created the initiative in 1999. More than half of the species tied to oceans and tropical forests are on a special watch list because of small and declining populations, limited ranges and severe threats to their habitats. “The outlook for oceanic birds . . . is the bleakest of any North American bird group,” said the report, which blamed invasive predators — such as rats and cats — on nesting islands as well as overfishing, pollution and climate change. Ways to address the problem include removing predators, expanding protected marine areas and reducing the oceans’ deposits of plastic products that can trap or choke birds, the report said. Many species in coastal, grassland and arid habitats are declining steeply, in particular long-distance migratory shore birds. The main causes are sea-level rise, coastal development, human activity and oil spills, the report said.